



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Finding Christmas in The Chaos - It's The Journey That Gets Me, 12/17/23 - We elevate the journey with catchy lines and good intentions, but the strategy isn't foolproof. The journey can be just as painful, difficult, and lonely as the destination. It's uncertain. Our experiences along the way and what we anticipate about our destination make up the journey. But our best efforts can't compare with the wonder-working power of journeying with Jesus. (*Passages: Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 2:1-15*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

How do we "enjoy the journey"? Do we focus on ourselves and what brings us pleasure? Is that realistic? Won't that just leave us constantly seeking the next experience? How can we find value and rest on a journey that isn't always easy?

Read Luke 2:1-7. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

These verses read simply; they're easy to skim then move on. They seem of little consequence. But each detail in this story is significant. Just like in our own stories. God brings beauty out of pain. Look through Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1. The stories of his ancestors, that can be found throughout the Bible, tell of loss and conflict. But God turned their hardships into victory. Their stories were essential pieces of God's great plan to bring Jesus into this world to save it. What trials has God used in your life for good? Have you made it through heartbreak? What have you learned?

God is with you, and He will direct your steps. Just like the Magi who followed a star and were warned in dreams. It's what we experience in our relationship with God that makes it - His presence. He is always with us. And the destination and anticipation of what's to come that pulls joy into our lives - His direction. With Him, we can anticipate an end with no more struggles. Having him with us is what we experience. What part of your journey do you need to invite Jesus into? What victories do you need to praise Him for?

Weekly Challenge: Visit one of our Life Groups! Check them out at gracefreechurch.net/center